

A most horrid and bloody

MURDER COMMITTED AT ISLINGTON COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

On Saturday the 7th of Instant July 1681. by
Four Foot-padders whereof two are taken
whose names are Thomas Wilson and Neal
Johnson, the last being the man that committed
the murder upon the body of the deces-
ed; who dyed of his wounds, in the space of
five hours notwithstanding all meanes used
to the contrary

Justice the severity of our wholesome Laws here in Eng-
land, shall ban deier or hinder the wicked projects, & evil
designs of ill disposed Villains, and bloody minded
Ruffians, who to effect their damned cruelties, spare not to
perpetrate their wickednesses even to their utter Ruins, and
shameful overthrowes, as you may see by the Subsequent lines
of this Tragical Story lately Acted at *Islington*, by the blood-
dy hands of some inconsiderate butcherly Rascalls, who

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loathing and abhorring the pains and labours of gaining their Lively-hoods by the sweat of their brows have now brought themselves into such a Labyrinth of unspeakable Trouble, that it is thought they will pay dear-ly for.

But now I come to the matter. On Saturday Night last it being the 7th. of July, four Villains resolved & fully bent on Robbery, with a Courage, animated by the Devil and his Council went out upon their wicked design, and coming near to Islington they perceived a Coach driving on, which they thought might yield them something of a prize; so, Resolutely, they set upon it, there being but one person in it, who contrary to their expectation gallantly resisted, in so much that they missed of their aims, and by some means or other the Neighbouring Town-people, were somewhat Alarm'd, and quickly came to the assistance of the assaulted; whereupon the Villains flew, but were pursued and overtaken; whereupon the company of Padders were divided, two of them making their escapes, and the other two taken, but before they were taken, one of them, whose name was Neal Johnson, let fly a Pistol at the Brest, of a Gentlemans Servant, and so mortally wounded him, that notwithstanding the diligent care that was taken of him he died about the space of five hours after: one more was wounded in the dispute being a man of known courage, and an inhabitant of the town aforesaid, whose name is Barnes. But notwithstanding their resistance, such was the courage of the Assailants, that they got the day of them, and so secured the two above named that they were had to close Prison in Newgate, on Sunday the 8th of July 1683.

But since we had information of what we have already recounted, we have met with a more particular account, which is that Neal Johnson, and Thomas Wilson, by the assistance of two more of their Companions, adventured to set upon the Coach of one Madam Gold, between the Towns of Holloway, and Islington: and took from thence some small matter of what value we are uncertain, and so made over Hedge, and Ditch towards Islington, where, by the New-River of the back of the Town, they were met by John Barnes, perhaps with one more with him. This Barnes seized one Neal Johnson, who giving him some wound, though it is not thought Mortal, on his Brest, for that present made his Escape, but being pursued closely by some of the Town, they were stopped in their flight.

flight, by the deceased party, which finding *Neal Johnson* pulled out a Pistol and shot him in the *Breast*: But at last taken they were, and had before Justice *Heriot* of the same Town, who discreetly and carefully *Examined* them, and withal demanded the reason of their flight, to which this *Neal Johnson* replied he knew the abovenamed *Barnes* to be a *Baylist*, and therefore fearing that he had a *Writ* against him, took to his heels.

But this slender Evasion was not enough to serve his turn, for he was found Tardy of the Murder, besides the Evidence of a Gentleman passing by, who hearing of the Premises, which are before Rehearsed, went to see them, where his Eye was soon fixed upon this *Neal*, whom he partly knew to be one, who not long before had given Testimony of his *Life & Conversation*: but to be short they were thought worthy of a safer place, and it was thought very necessary to secure them in the County Goal of *Middlesex* which is *Newgate*, where if they can they may have some time to repent; but it is reported that they were *Extraordinary* Confident, and seemed not in the least measure to be daunted at their Commitment; and so we leave them in their Chains, and Fetters, to repine at their impudence, which in a little time is supposed will be at a Period.

And though they see how fast the Prisons fill with Malefactors, yet will they go on in their wicked Resolutions, till they are clearly past all hope of comfort, and finish their lamentable Ditty in the view, and presence of thousands of sorrowful Spectators, who mourn to see

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see the Fatal Ends, and miserable Conclusions
they make of their mispent times. It is sad
to consider that so many warnings, as they have
seen and heard of, are not, nor cannot be of more
prevalency with them, but that must and will
run the same course, till the displeased Heavens
pour down Vengeance upon their mis-guided
Actions, and when it is too late, they mourn
for their fatal Miscarriages.

And I wish that all persons would take warn-
ing by evil doers, so that their sufferings may
be a Discouragement to them, ever to under-
take such wicked & inhumane Actions, whose
final ends are in shame and misery, and con-
cludewith woful and miserable Destruction.

monition of his Life & Conversation.
to which they were thought worthy of
a later place, and it was thought very necessary
to lecture them in the County Gaol of Middle-
sex which I believe where it they can they
may have some time to repent; but it is reported
and

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that they were thought worthy of
to be in the last measure to be damned
at their Commitment; and so we leave them
to their own Chances, and leave them to
their impudence, which in a little time is sup-
posed will be as great as ever.

And though they be now in the Prison
still with Malefactors, yet will they go on in
their wicked Resolutions till they are clearly
past all hope of comfort, and finish their un-
happy Day in the view and presence of thou-
sands of sorrowful Spectators, who mourn to
see

